

MEMORANDUM

file

TO: Management Committee, Research Council

DATE: 9/25/67

FROM: Daniel Ellsberg

MEMO NO.: M-6318

SUBJECT: PRECIS OF PROPOSED TALK TO RAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 1967: "PACIFICATION AND POLITICS IN VIETNAM"

COPIES TO:

Why have several successive U.S.-supported "pacification" (or "Revolutionary Development") programs in Vietnam failed, year after year, to bring an overall lasting increase in the area and population secured and controlled by the Government of Vietnam? What are the prospects of greater success in the future; and what U.S. or GVN policies could improve the odds?

It was among the speaker's responsibilities, during a two-year tour in Vietnam with the State Department, to evaluate the progress of Revolutionary Development for Major General Lansdale and Deputy Ambassador Porter, and to propose answers to the above questions.

This talk covers some of the problems of pacification as observed concretely in the countryside, and some of the aspects of U.S. and GVN structures and policies that have so far frustrated pacification efforts. It will also cover aspects of national politics in Vietnam -- and of the U.S. role in respect to Vietnamese politics -- which seem fundamental to success there, and changes that are prerequisite to progress, in pacification and other areas.

Daniel Ellsberg

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